INTRODUCING "THE CROONER"
MAYBE SO, MAYBE NO. I'D SURELY LIKE TO TRY

THE CROONER'S UP TO SOMETHING, WAXY.
YEAH. IN CONFERENCE WITH HIMSELF, HATCHING AN IDEA.

WAXY, I'VE GOT IT!
GOT WHAT?

KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
WHO DON'T? ~IT'S THE PHANTOM'S MARK. WHAT YOU COOKING UP, CROONER?

WHERE'D YOU GET THAT PHANTOM MARK, CROONER?
COPIED FROM A GUY'S JAW YEARS AGO~A GUY THE PHANTOM LEFT BEHIND.

YOU KNOW, WAXY, I LIKE NICE, SOFT RACKETS.
SURE, CROONER, THAT'S YOU ALL OVER.

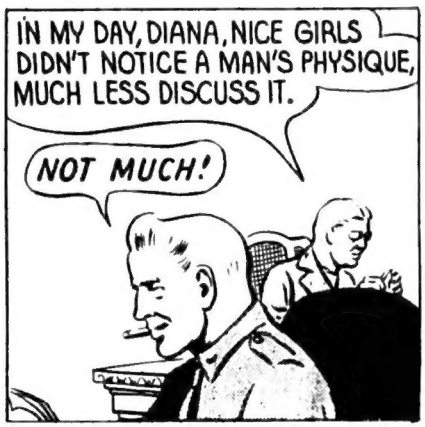
CHEE! A RING WITH A SKULL ON IT! WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?
HAD IT MADE.

WHAT'S THE SOFT RACKET, CROONER? I DON'T GET IT!
YOU WILL, WAXY, YOU WILL!

THE PHANTOM HAS BEEN VISITING DIANA AT HER UNCLE DAVE'S HOUSE.
WHERE'D HE GO, DIANA?
OUT FOR A WORKOUT, I THINK.

LANDSAKES, HE WAS PACING UP AND DOWN IN HERE LIKE A POLAR BEAR IN THE ZOO.

HE NEEDS EXERCISE, MAMA. HOW ELSE COULD HE DEVELOP SUCH A MARVELOUS PHYSIQUE?


IN MY DAY, DIANA, NICE GIRLS DIDN'T NOTICE A MAN'S PHYSIQUE, MUCH LESS DISCUSS IT.
NOT MUCH!

THAT FIVE~MILE SWIM FRESHENED ME UP~NOW FOR SOME REAL EXERCISE.
5 25

CHIN~UPS, 200 FEET ABOVE THE RIVER~

THEN A TEN~MILE RUN~

MEANWHILE~IN A CERTAIN GANG HIDEOUT.
WE SEEN DE PHANTOM~HE'S IN DE WOODS, KNOCKIN' HIMSELF OUT!
GOOD! NOW IS~THE TIME TO PULL OUR JOB!

RAN FARTHER THAN I INTENDED TO, "DEVIL". WE'D BETTER GET HOME.
5 26

IN TOWN, A WATCHMAN MAKES HIS ROUNDS.
ALL QUIET.

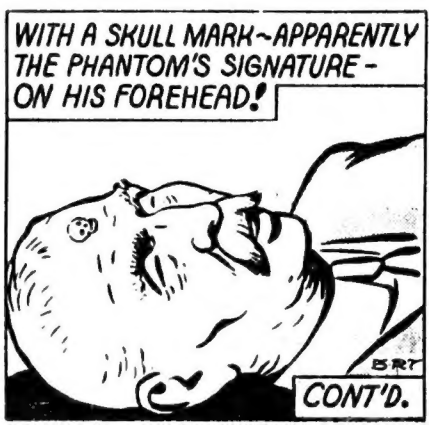
♪ LAY THAT PISTOL DOWN, YOU, LAY THAT PISTOL DOWN! ♫
???

AND ALL BLAME WILL BE LAID ON THE PHANTOM.
WHAT'S UP?

NICE HAUL~NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, CROONER.
NOT TILL I LEAVE SOMETHING!

♪ I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING ♪ TO REMEMBER ME BY! ♫

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, A POLICE~MAN FINDS THE WATCHMAN~


WITH A SKULL MARK~APPARENTLY THE PHANTOM'S SIGNATURE~ON HIS FOREHEAD!
5 27
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM SHOULD BE THRU WITH HIS WORKOUT NOW~I'LL WALK TO MEET HIM.
5-29

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
BURGLARY, LADY.

AND LOOK WHO DID IT!

THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!

I MUST FIND HIM, AND WARN HIM THAT HE'S BEING FRAMED!

DARLING! DARLING! SOMETHING AWFUL HAS HAPPENED!
5-30

~AND THE POLICE THINK YOU DID IT.
SOME CROOK'S FIGURED OUT A NEW ANGLE!

YOU WERE ALONE~ YOU HAVE NO ALIBI.
NO,~UNTIL I LEARN WHO REALLY DID IT.
TOMORROW: THE SEARCH.

SOME CLEVER CROOKS ARE LEAVING MY MARK AT THE SCENE OF THEIR CRIMES. I MUST WORK FAST!

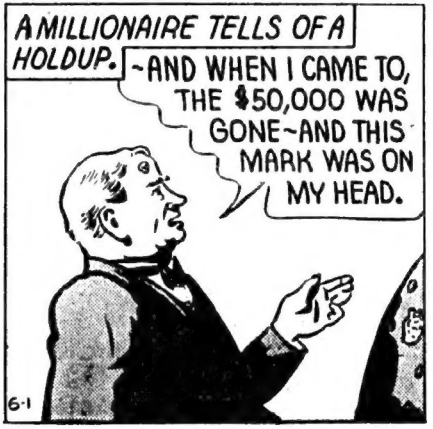
THIS IS AN UNDERWORLD HANG-OUT~MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO LEARN SOMETHING.
POOL ROOM
5-31

WHO'S RUNNING THE SCARLET GANG SINCE SNAKEYE WAS BUMPED OFF?
GUY CALLED THE CROONER~ REALLY KNOWS HIS STUFF.

THE CROONER? TELL ME ABOUT HIM.
THIS PLACE IS TOO PUBLIC.

DIDJA HEAR ABOUT THE LATEST JOB THE CROONER PULLED?

AS "MR. WALKER" INVESTIGATES, THE CRIMES CONTINUE.
THEY GOT AWAY~ BUT THEY LEFT THE SIGN OF THE PHANTOM!

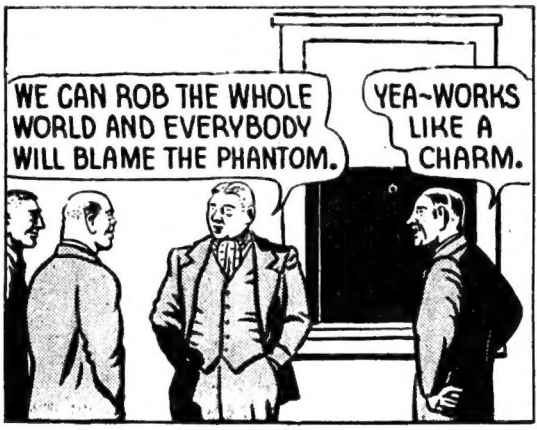

A MILLIONAIRE TELLS OF A HOLDUP.
~AND WHEN I CAME TO, THE $50,000 WAS GONE~AND THIS MARK WAS ON MY HEAD.
6-1

HEADLINES PROCLAIM~~
EXTRA
PHANTOM STEALS PAYROLL
TOMORROW: THE PHONY~ IN PERSON!

THE CROONER GLOATS OVER HIS LOOT.
♪ WE'RE IN THE MONEY! WE'RE IN THE MONEY! ♪
GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, CROONER!

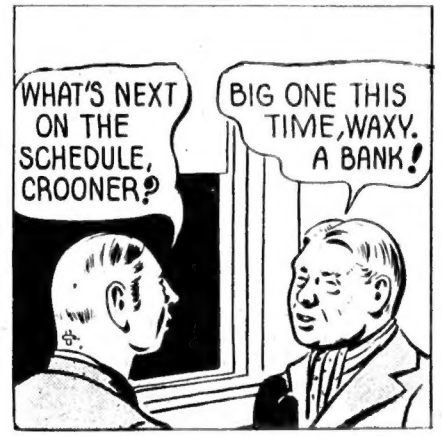
STICK WITH ME, BOYS, AND WE'LL ALL BE MILLIONAIRES.
6-2

AND THANKS TO THIS SKULL RING, EVERY JOB WILL BE BLAMED ON THE PHANTOM!


WE CAN ROB THE WHOLE WORLD AND EVERYBODY WILL BLAME THE PHANTOM.
YEA~WORKS LIKE A CHARM.

~AS LONG AS WE MAKE HIS SIGN WITH MY SKULL RING.

BUT CROONER, AIN'T YOU SCARED THE PHANTOM WILL CATCH UP TO US SOONER OR LATER?
NOT A CHANCE! HE'S PROBABLY BEATIN' HIS BRAINS OUT, WONDERING WHERE WE ARE.
6-3
CONT'D.

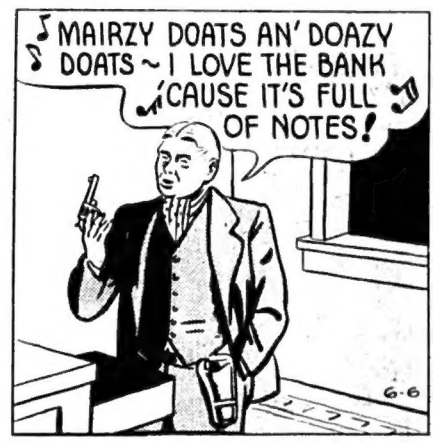

WHAT'S NEXT ON THE SCHEDULE, CROONER?
BIG ONE THIS TIME, WAXY. A BANK!

THE CROONER'S GANG IS USING THE PHANTOM'S MARK TO COVER THEIR CRIMES!
THE PHANTOM IS STILL AT LARGE~

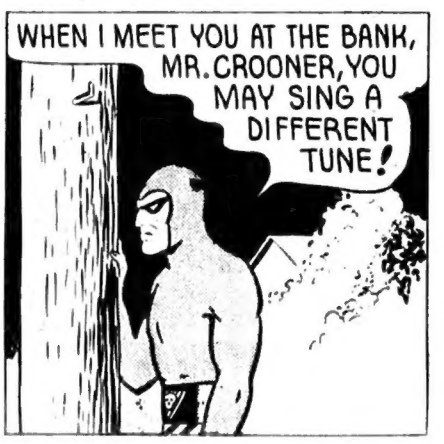
THAT MEANS WE CAN PULL THIS JOB AND BLAME IT ON HIM! SOME RACKET, EH? WAXY, I MUST BE A GENIUS!
6-5

SO THIS IS THE GANG!

HERE'S THE NATIONAL BANK LAY-OUT~~WAXY WILL DISCONNECT THE BURGLAR ALARM.


MAIRZY DOATS AN' DOAZY DOATS ~ I LOVE THE BANK 'CAUSE IT'S FULL OF NOTES!
6-6

HI~HO, HI~HO~~TO ROB THE BANK WE GO.


WHEN I MEET YOU AT THE BANK, MR. CROONER, YOU MAY SING A DIFFERENT TUNE!

THE CROONER'S CAR STOPS BEFORE REACHING THE BANK!
FF

HEY, YOU!

GOT TWO NICKELS FOR A DIME?
SURE. HERE.

THANKS.
DON'T MENTION IT!
TOMORROW- THE TIPOFF!

PERHAPS I CAN CATCH WHAT HE SAYS.
6-8

DISGUISING HIS VOICE WITH A HANDKERCHIEF.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, QUICK!

WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN!
I SAID, I CAN TELL YOU WHERE THE PHANTOM'S PULLING A JOB TONIGHT!

THE PHANTOM PLANS TO STEAL A $100,000 PAINTING FROM THE ART MUSEUM.

IF WE CATCH HIM, I'LL GET A PROMOTION.

DUMB POLICE! THEY'LL GO ACROSS TOWN TO THE MUSEUM, WHILE WE WORK SAFELY HERE!
6-9

I WONDER WHERE THE PHANTOM REALLY IS?
TOMORROW: BANK NIGHT

♪ HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN. ♪
PIPE DOWN, CROONER. THERE'S A COP ON THIS BEAT.
BANK

NEVER MIND MY CROONING~ WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS SILENCE THAT ALARM.
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CAREFUL YOU DON'T TURN IT ON INSTEAD OF OFF.

WAIT'LL THE COPS FIND THE PHANTOM'S MARK ON THIS JOB! THEY'LL GO CRAZY!
6-10

HOW YOU MAKING WIT' THE LOCK, BUTCH?
EASY ~ LIKE OPENIN' A CIGAR BOX.

THERE'S A GOLD MINE IN THE SKY~ BUT WHO WANTS TO GO THAT HIGH?
SHE'S OPEN. LET'S GO IN.

WHAT A CINCH THIS IS! WITH THAT ALARM SHUT OFF, NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE HERE.
NATIONAL BANK
6-12

TOMORROW: FACE TO FACE!

DIS WAS AS EASY AS OPENIN' A SWINGIN' DOOR.

WE GOT OUR HAUL ~ LET'S SCRAM.
NO, WAIT A MINUTE.

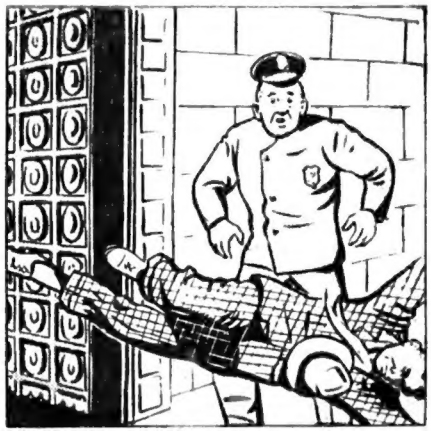
FIRST LET ME MAKE THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM.
NO, LET ME DO IT.
6-13

I'VE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE MAKING THAT MARK!

I'LL START BY LEAVING MY MARK ON YOU ~ PHONY!

I'M NOT STINGY ~ YOU FELLOWS GET MARKS, TOO.
SAVINGS

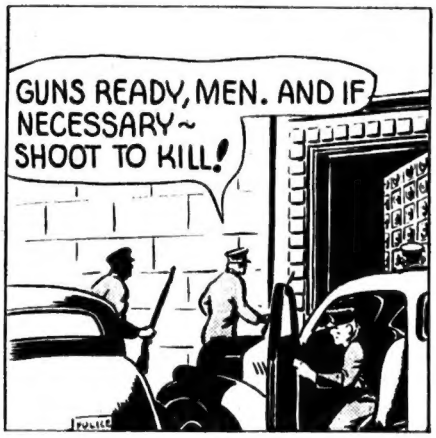
SURE AN' A PEACEFUL NIGHT IT TIZ, IT TIZ!
6-14



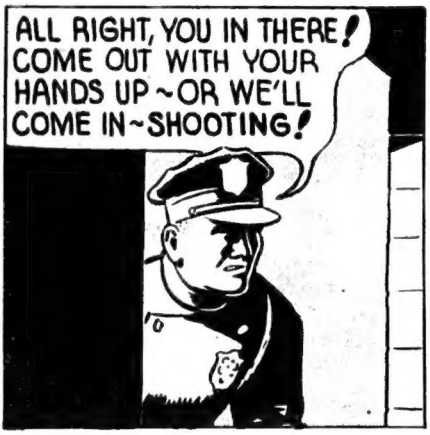
INSIDE THE NATIONAL BANK, THE PHANTOM'S MIGHTY FISTS FLAIL THE GANGSTERS UNTIL~

A SIREN! THE COPS!

6-15


GUNS READY, MEN. AND IF NECESSARY~ SHOOT TO KILL!

YOU MEN COVER THE REAR~ WE'LL GO IN THE FRONT.
6-16


ALL RIGHT, YOU IN THERE! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP~OR WE'LL COME IN~SHOOTING!

COME OUT OR WE'LL SHOOT!

THE PHANTOM IS DAZED FROM A HEAD WOUND.
6-17

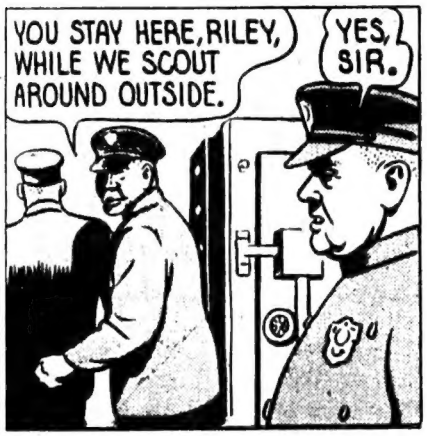
BUT THE POLICE OFFICER GETS NO ANSWER~
MY HEAD! A FRACTION OF AN INCH CLOSER~ WOULD HAVE BEEN CURTAINS~

ALL RIGHT! WE'RE COMING AFTER YOU!

A MOMENT LATER~
NOBODY HERE! HMM~BLOOD~ON THE FLOOR~
CONT'D.

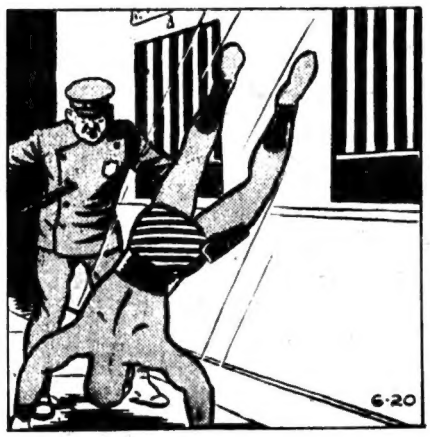
LOOK! SKULL MARK! IT'S THE PHANTOM'S ALL RIGHT.
HE MUST BE A REAL SPOOK.

WHAT I'D GIVE TO LAY HANDS ON THAT BIRD!
ME, TOO, BUT HE'S PROBABLY A MILLION MILES AWAY.
SAVINGS
6-19


YOU STAY HERE, RILEY, WHILE WE SCOUT AROUND OUTSIDE.
YES, SIR.

WELL, BOYS, LET'S GET BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.
YEAH~PHANTOM MADE ANOTHER CLEAN BREAK!

THE PHANTOM, DAZED BY A HEAD WOUND, TRIES TO MOVE ~ AND FAINTS ~
SAVINGS
SAVINGS


6-20

POLICE NAB PHANTOM
COP CITED FOR BRAVERY IN BRILLIANT CAPTURE

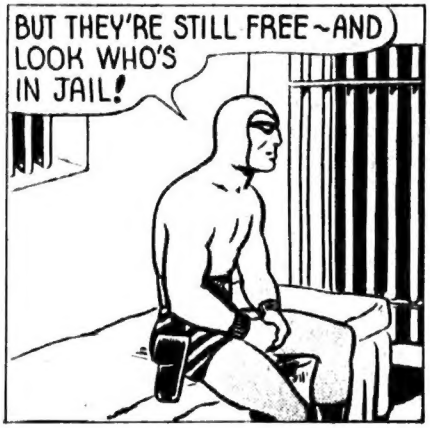
PHANTOM ARRESTED! BANK-ROBBER! WHAT NONSENSE!

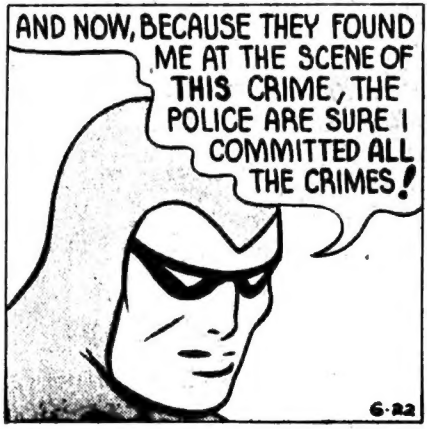
THERE, YOU SEE, DIANA?
MOTHER~ YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I NEVER REALLY TRUSTED HIM. CALL IT INTUITION, IF YOU WANT.
MOTHER, HE'S BEEN FRAMED!
6-21

BUT I'M AFRAID THE EVIDENCE IS AGAINST HIM.
WHY PRETEND? HE'S OBVIOUSLY GUILTY!

THE JOKE'S ON ME. I WANTED TO CATCH THE CROONER AND HIS GANG RED~HANDED AND PUT THEM IN JAIL.


BUT THEY'RE STILL FREE~AND LOOK WHO'S IN JAIL!


AND NOW, BECAUSE THEY FOUND ME AT THE SCENE OF THIS CRIME, THE POLICE ARE SURE I COMMITTED ALL THE CRIMES!
6-22

BUT THE CROONER IS WORRIED, TOO.
THERE'S ONE WAY TO STOP THE PHANTOM FROM TELLING THE COPS WHO WE ARE~WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM!

SOME DAME WANTS TO SEE THE PHANTOM. SHE'S QUITE A LOOKER!
OKAY, BUT KEEP AN EYE ON 'EM~
6-23

A VISITOR FOR YOU, BUB.

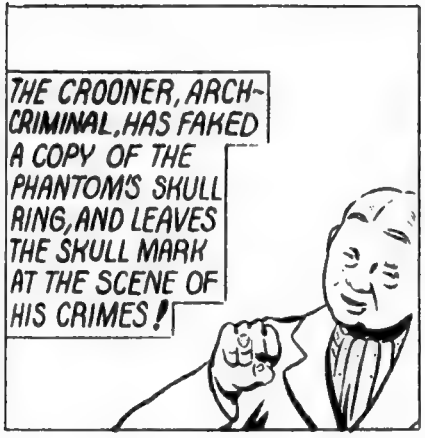
DIANA~
DARLING, THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO YOU!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY.

THIS IS HORRIBLE! DO YOU KNOW WHO FRAMED YOU?
YES. THEY'VE DONE A GOOD JOB OF IT, TOO.

TELL ME~MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU!
NO. IF THEY THOUGHT YOU KNEW, THEY'D KILL YOU!
6-24

I'VE GOT TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE. MOTHER THINKS YOU'RE GUILTY AND~~
FOR ALL YOU KNOW I AM. YOU WEREN'T THERE.

YOUR WORD IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
DIANA, DID I EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE WONDERFUL?
NEXT WEEK: THE CROONER'S DILEMMA!


THE CROONER, ARCH-CRIMINAL, HAS FAKED A COPY OF THE PHANTOM'S SKULL RING, AND LEAVES THE SKULL MARK AT THE SCENE OF HIS CRIMES!

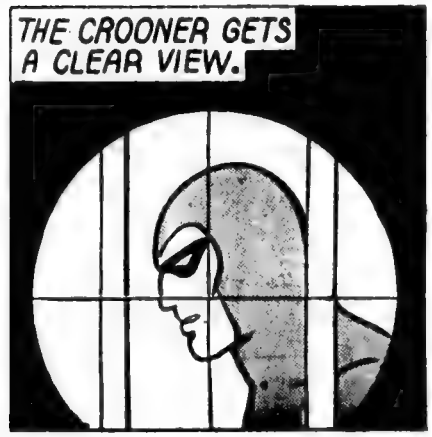
THE PHANTOM TRACKS THE CROONER ~ CATCHES HIM RED~HANDED~
THEY'LL BLAME THE PHANTOM.

BUT THE CROONER GETS IN A LUCKY SHOT.

AND THE PHANTOM, DAZED BY A SLIGHT HEAD~WOUND, IS CAUGHT BY POLICE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!!!
G·RG

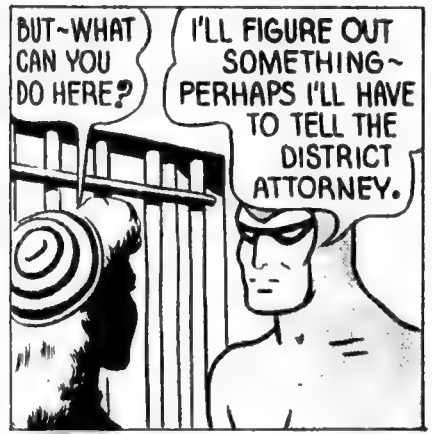
THAT WINDOW OVERLOOKS THE JAIL, CROONER.
G·RT

LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THE JAIL THROUGH THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT!


THE CROONER GETS A CLEAR VIEW.

IT'S A CINCH SHOT, CROONER. LEAVE ME DO IT.
NO, WE WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE~THIS ONE'S GOTTA BE GOOD!

PLEASE, TELL ME WHO THE FAKE PHANTOM IS~SO I CAN HELP YOU.
I MUST HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF, DIANA. I WON'T LET YOU BE INVOLVED.


BUT~WHAT CAN YOU DO HERE?
I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING~ PERHAPS I'LL HAVE TO TELL THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

WAIT, CROONER! I JUST THUNK OF SOMETHIN'!
WHAT?

IF YOU KILL THE PHANTOM, WE WON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO PIN OUR CRIMES ON~ WE'LL HAVE TO RETIRE.
G·RB

WHEN WE KILL THE PHANTOM, WE KILL OUR ALIBI.
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT~

~AS LONG AS HE'S IN JAIL, HE ISN'T ANY USE TO US AS AN ALIBI, EITHER~

~AND THERE'S STILL THE DANGER HE'LL TELL THE COPS ABOUT US~
I GOT AN IDEA.

LET US SPRING THE PHANTOM OUT OF JAIL!

TIME'S UP, LADY.
GOODBYE.
SO LONG, DIANA. DON'T WORRY.

DIANA'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO, COOPED UP IN HERE.

BUT IF I COULD JUST GET OUT, I'D PROVE MY INNOCENCE~ AND CAPTURE THE CROONER!

OK, CROONER. FOR ONE "G" I'LL BUST OPEN THAT CHEESE BOX. WHO DO YOU WANT SPRUNG?
THE PHANTOM.

OFFISHER, COULD YOU (HIC)~SHAY COULD~
BUDDY, FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I'LL LOCK YOU UP TILL YOU GET SOBER.

THE CROONER'S GANG PLANS TO RELEASE THE PHANTOM.
MARCH ALONG!
BUT (HIC) I DON'T LIKE THISH HOTEL. HEY~ LOOKIT HIM!

HE'S WEARIN' BLACK UNDIES. SHAY, BUDDY, WHYN'T YOU PUT SOME CLOSHE ON?

COME ON, YOU!
SHO LONG, PAL.
?
CONT'D.

THE PHANTOM DOESN'T NOTICE A LITTLE "PRESENT" THAT LOCKY TOSSES INTO HIS CELL.

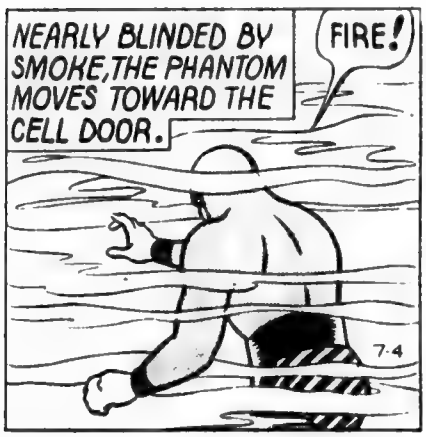
THE MATCH SETS THE PHANTOM'S COT AFIRE.

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, SOMEHOW. HEY~!

MY BUNK~ ON FIRE!
7-3

HIS BUNK AFIRE, THE PHANTOM TRIES TO BEAT OUT THE FLAMES.

IT'S GOT TOO GOOD A START.


NEARLY BLINDED BY SMOKE, THE PHANTOM MOVES TOWARD THE CELL DOOR.
FIRE!
7-4

UNKNOWN TO THE PHANTOM, THE CROONER'S PLAN TO "SPRING" HIM FROM JAIL IS WORKING PERFECTLY!
UNLOCKED!

UNLOCKED! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

IT'S A BREAK~IN THE CONFUSION MAYBE I CAN SLIP OUT.

I'VE STILL GOT TO GET THROUGH THE OUTSIDE DOOR.
7-5

FIRE! FIRE!

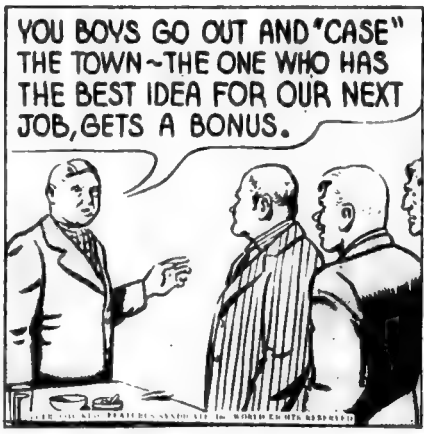
FIRE! FIRE! LET US OUT! FIRE!

~FIRE IN THE CELL BLOCK!

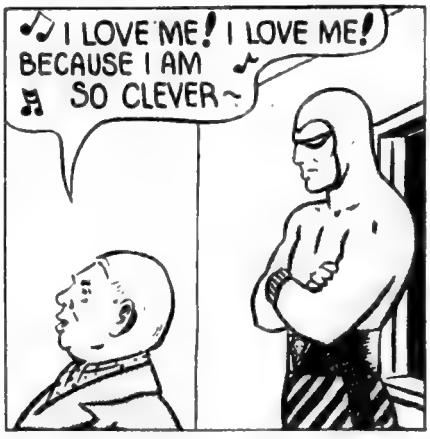
HURRY, JOE, BEFORE THERE'S A PANIC!

THE EXCITED GUARDS RUSH THROUGH, AND A DARK-CLAD FIGURE SLIPS QUIETLY OUT THE DOOR.
7-6

WE JUST GOT WORD~THE PHANTOM'S BUSTED OUT OF JAIL.
GOOD! GOOD! NOW WE CAN PROCEED.
7-7

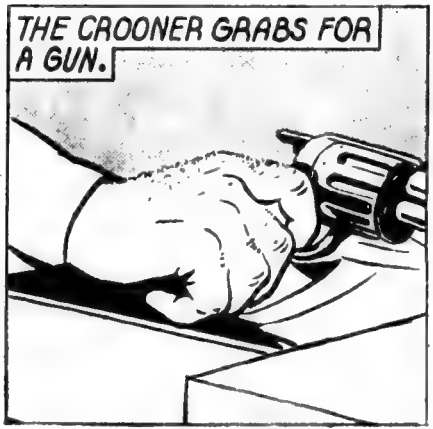

YOU BOYS GO OUT AND "CASE" THE TOWN~THE ONE WHO HAS THE BEST IDEA FOR OUR NEXT JOB, GETS A BONUS.

♪LA~DE~DA! ♪ AND WE CAN STILL BLAME OUR JOBS ON THE PHANTOM.


♪ I LOVE ME! I LOVE ME! BECAUSE I AM ♪ SO CLEVER~

INTERESTING RING YOU HAVE THERE, MISTER.
7-8

IT'S ALMOST A MATCH FOR MINE.
ULP!


THE CROONER GRABS FOR A GUN.

BUT THE PHANTOM IS TOO FAST FOR HIM.

YOU WIN, PHANTOM. HOW'D YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, CROONER.

LET ME GO AND I'LL SPLIT MY LOOT WITH YOU.
NOT A CHANCE ~ YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON.

ALL RIGHT, PHANTOM ~ DROP THAT ROD.

YOU SEE, BUTCH AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DROPPING IN.

WHAT NOW? SENDING ME BACK TO JAIL?
NOT AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE TOOK TO GET YOU OUT!

YOU SEE, THE COPS WON'T KNOW YOU'RE DEAD ~ AND THEY'LL STILL BLAME THE PHANTOM FOR EVERYTHING WE DO.

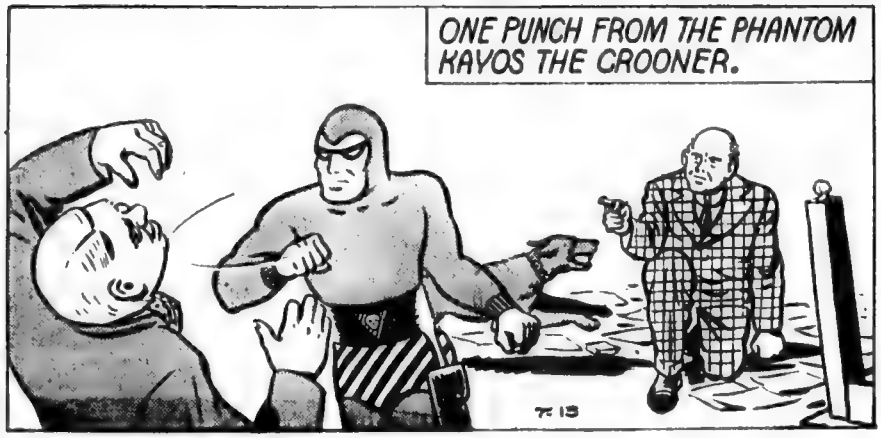
LET'S TAKE NO CHANCES, BUTCH ~ FINISH HIM OFF NOW!

FAITHFUL "DEVIL" SAVES HIS MASTER ~ BY A SPLIT ~ SECOND.

GOOD BOY, "DEVIL"!

GRAB THAT GUN; BUTCH ~ SHOOT THAT DOG!

THIS IS JUST FOR THINKING OF SHOOTING "DEVIL"!


ONE PUNCH FROM THE PHANTOM KAYOS THE CROONER.

"DEVIL" STICKS WITH HIS MAN ~

"DEVIL", AS SOON AS RATIONING IS OVER, YOU'VE GOT A BEEF STEAK COMING!

AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, IT IS MY TURN.

LATER ~
BOOOO

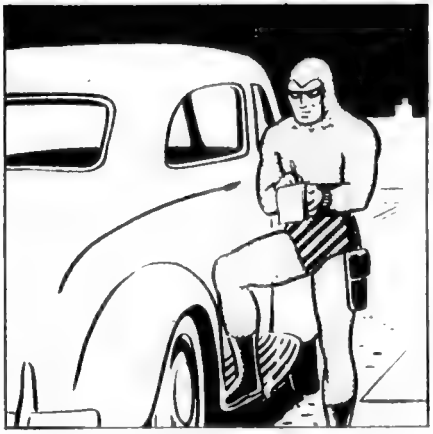
SEND HELP! I JUST SAW THE PHANTOM!
WHAT'S THE PHANTOM UP TO?

WHERE'S THE PHANTOM?
HE RAN DOWN THAT ALLEY!

COME ON ~~ LET'S GET HIM.

HE WENT THIS WAY!

THE PHANTOM GETS IN~AND OUT~OF THE EMPTY POLICE CAR.
POLICE



THIS IS A SWITCH~ GIVING A TICKET TO A POLICE CAR!

Here's the phony "Phantom" who committed the crimes-- Look at his ring.
7-17

ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW THE PHANTOM?
CERTAINLY. HE RAN DOWN THE ALLEY!
YOU WERE DREAM~ ING.
7-18
Copr. 1941 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

WHAT'S THIS?

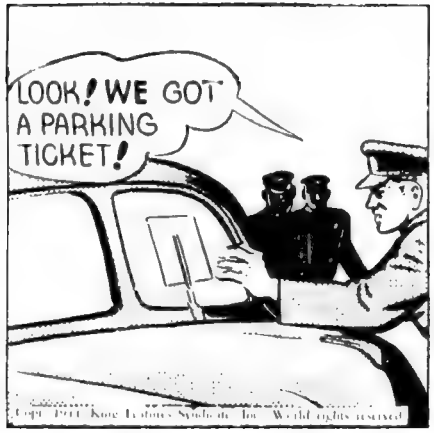
A BODY! IN OUR CAR!

HELP ME GET THIS GUY OUT.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN SLUGGED.
IS HE DEAD?
7-19

NO~HE'S BREATHING. WONDER WHAT THE GAG IS?
MAYBE SOME COLLITCH INITIATION.

WHO COULDA DONE THIS? WE WERE ONLY AWAY FROM THE CAR A MINUTE!
LOOK~ A NOTE!


LOOK! WE GOT A PARKING TICKET!

IT'S FROM THE PHANTOM!

IT SAYS THAT THIS IS THE PHONY PHANTOM WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMES.
IT SAYS TO LOOK AT HIS RING.

TOMORROW: MISSING.

HAVING "CASED" THE TOWN, THE GANGSTERS RETURN TO THEIR HANGOUT.

I PICKED OUT A BANK JOB DAT'S A LULU!
PHOOIE! I'M GONNA WIN DE BONUS!

HEY, CROONER, WE GOT ENOUGH JOBS LINED UP TO MAKE US ALL BILLIONAIRES.

WHAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON HERE? THE CROONER IS GONE!

LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A FIGHT.
THE CROONER AIN'T HERE.
BUTCH, NEITHER.

WONDER WHERE THE CROONER CAN BE?
I HOID A GROAN!

LOOK! IT'S BUTCH!
WITH A SKULL MARK ON HIS JAW!

SEE THAT SKULL MARK, BOYS? THAT MEANS THE CROONER, HIMSELF, SLUGGED BUTCH. THEN MADE OFF WITH ALL OUR LOOT!
7-24

MADE OFF WITH OUR LOOT!
THE NO-GOOD DOUBLE-CROSSER!
LET'S RUB HIM OUT!

BOYS, YOU GOT THE CROONER ALL WRONG-IT WAS THE REAL PHANTOM WHO SLUGGED ME!

THE REAL PHANTOM KNOCKED ME COLD-THEN HE MUST'VE TOOK THE CROONER WITH HIM.
THEN THAT MEANS THE PHANTOM KNOWS THIS PLACE! WE GOTTA SCRAM OUTA HERE!
7-25

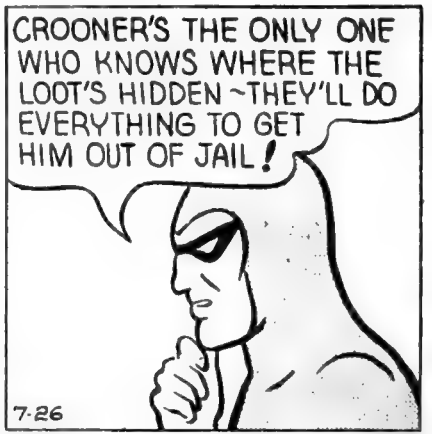
BUT FIRST, WE GOTTA FIND WHERE THE CROONER HID THE LOOT!

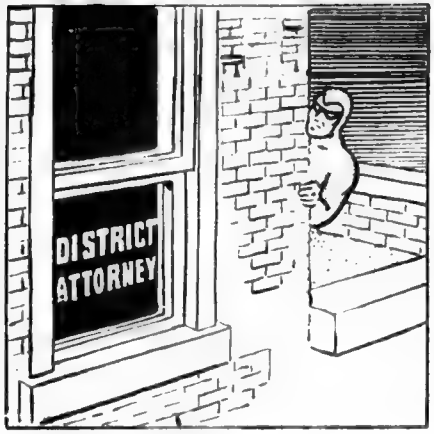
NO LUCK, WAXY.
GONE! I WONDER IF THE CROONER DOUBLE-CROSSED US?

THE WHOLE MOB SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW,

AFTER DELIVERING THE CROONER TO THE POLICE, THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE GANG'S HEADQUARTERS.
EMPTY!

LOOKS LIKE EITHER A CYCLONE OR A TREASURE HUNT-AND I'VE A HUNCH THEY DIDN'T FIND THE TREASURE!


CROONER'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE LOOT'S HIDDEN-THEY'LL DO EVERYTHING TO GET HIM OUT OF JAIL!
7-26


DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WHAT IS THE PHANTOM DOING IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?
7-27

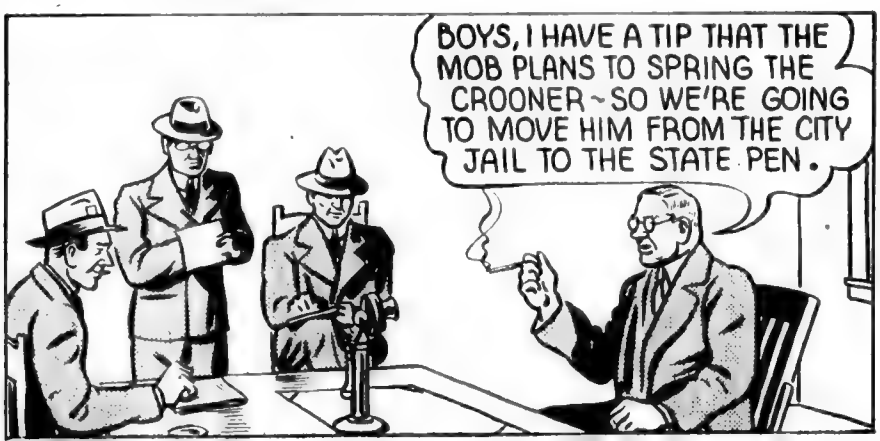
MORNING~ THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

BE ON GUARD, D.A. THE MOB'S GOING TO TRY TO FREE THE CROONER.
WHAT??

I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR CRANKS!
LOOK AT THE UNDER SIDE OF YOUR DESK BLOTTER.
7-28

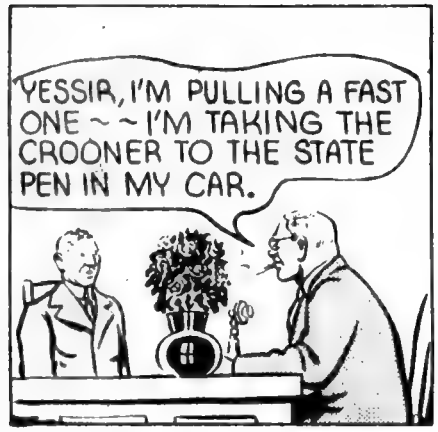
IT WAS THE PHANTOM!

FINALLY
FINALLY
FEAR JAIL BREAK
WILL MOVE CROONER TO STATE PEN

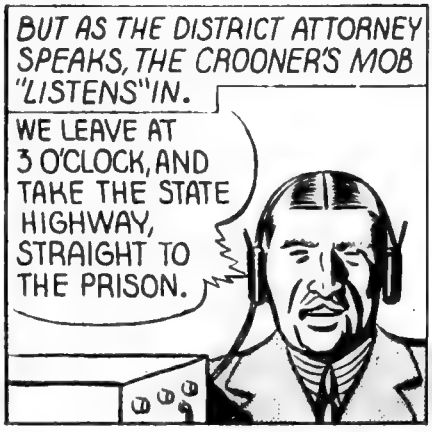

BOYS, I HAVE A TIP THAT THE MOB PLANS TO SPRING THE CROONER~SO WE'RE GOING TO MOVE HIM FROM THE CITY JAIL TO THE STATE PEN.

THAT STATE PEN IS FOOLPROOF ~WE GOTTA SPRING THE CROONER BEFORE THEY MOVE HIM!
7-29
NEXT WEEK: SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!

I WANT THEM DELIVERED TO THE D.A.
HOW FOOLISH OF THE D.A. TO ANNOUNCE HE'S MOVING THE CROONER!
FEAR JAIL BREAK
7-31
FOR ME? WHO SENT THEM?
THERE'S A CARD WITH 'EM.
WHAT IS THE CROONER'S GANG PLANNING?
To our noble District Attorney. Congratulations on catching the Crooner. from the Good Citizens' League.
AT LAST THE CITIZENS ARE BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE ME.
8-1
IT'S THE CROONER!
THEY'RE MOVIN' HIM OUTA JAIL!
POLICE STATION
HEY, WAXY, THAT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE DE CROONER.
WASN'T! THE D.A. IS TRYIN' TO PULL A FAST ONE!
WELL, EVERYTHING WENT OFF SMOOTHLY.
FRANKLY, I'M WORRIED.
8-2
WASN'T IT UNWISE TO ANNOUNCE THE REMOVAL OF THE CROONER? SUPPOSE THE MOB HOLDS UP THE TRAIN TO GET HIM OFF?
HA, HA! I SEE YOU HAVEN'T THE FAITH IN ME THAT THE GOOD CITIZEN'S' LEAGUE HAS!
THAT WASN'T THE REAL CROONER WE PUT ON THE TRAIN. I'LL PERSONALLY ESCORT HIM TO THE STATE PEN IN MY CAR!
TOMORROW: EAVESDROPPERS.


YESSIR, I'M PULLING A FAST ONE ~ ~ I'M TAKING THE CROONER TO THE STATE PEN IN MY CAR.

SO IF THEY HOLD UP THE TRAIN, THEY WON'T FIND THE CROONER ~
8-3


BUT AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SPEAKS, THE CROONER'S MOB "LISTENS" IN.
WE LEAVE AT 3 O'CLOCK, AND TAKE THE STATE HIGHWAY, STRAIGHT TO THE PRISON.

~AND, OF COURSE, IT WILL BE PERFECTLY SAFE, BE~ CAUSE NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT!
HOW ARE THEY DOING IT?
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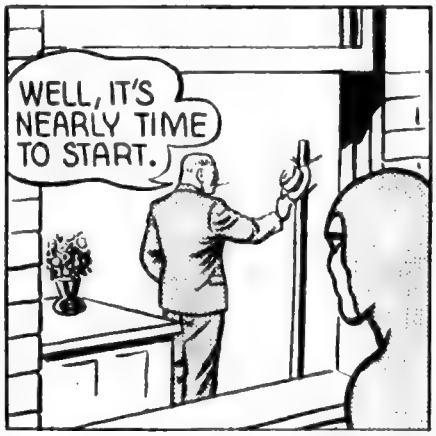
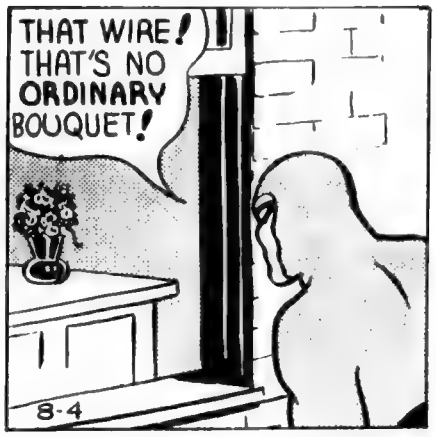

WELL, IT'S NEARLY TIME TO START.

THINK I'LL WEAR THIS ~ FOR LUCK.


THAT WIRE! THAT'S NO ORDINARY BOUQUET!
8-4

THERE'S ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE ABOUT THAT FLORAL PIECE.

A MINIATURE SENDING SET ~ CONCEALED IN IT! NO DOUBT THE CROONER'S GANG SENT IT TO THE D.A.!
8-5

I MUST WARN THE D.A. THAT THE GANG KNOWS ALL ABOUT HIS "SECRET" PLAN!
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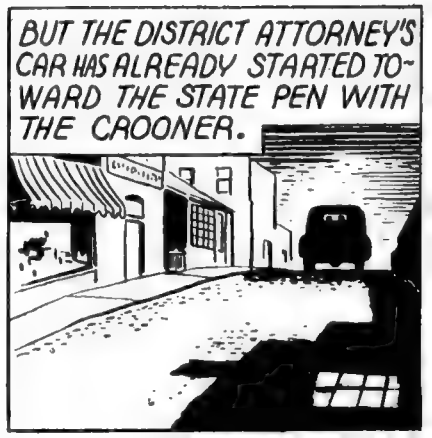

BUT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CAR HAS ALREADY STARTED TOWARD THE STATE PEN WITH THE CROONER.

GONE! BUT I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE D.A. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THE GANG'S GOING TO TRY TO FREE THE CROONER.

~UNLESS I CAN STOP THEM.

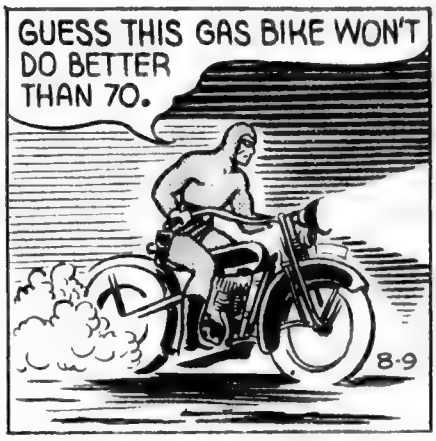
THIS MAY WORK~
WHAT MAY WORK?
8-7

WHAT'S THAT? A BODY?

THOSE HIT-AN'-RUN DRIVERS OUGHTA ALL BE STRUNG UP!

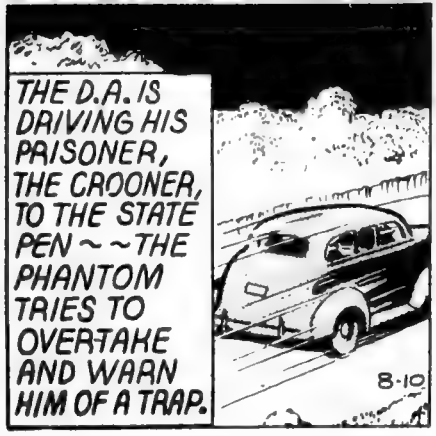
A DUMMY! WHAT KIND OF FOOL JOKE IS THIS?

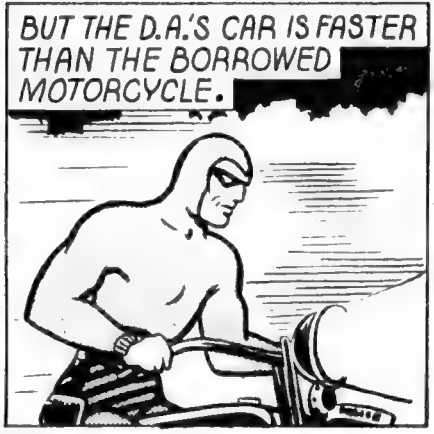
!
8-8


GUESS THIS GAS BIKE WON'T DO BETTER THAN 70.
8-9

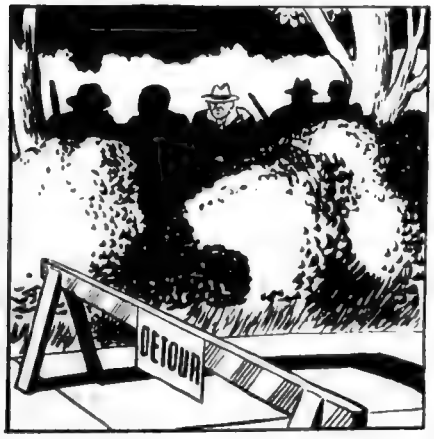
THE GANG PLANS TO AMBUSH THE D.A.'S CAR, WHILE THE PHANTOM RACES TO WARN HIM OF THE TRAP.
BE READY WITH THE DETOUR SIGN. THEY'RE DUE SHORTLY.

NOT MUCH TRAFFIC ON THIS ROAD, GRAYSON. HOLD HER AT 75.
TOMORROW: STOP~DANGER.

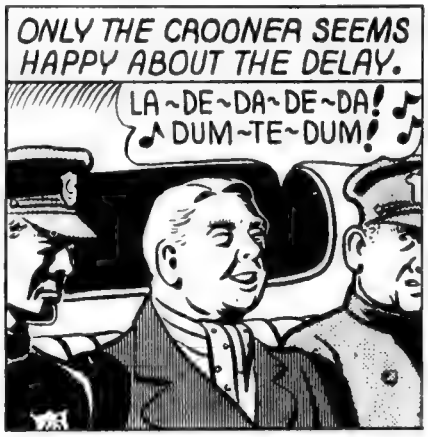

THE D.A. IS DRIVING HIS PRISONER, THE CROONER, TO THE STATE PEN ~ ~ THE PHANTOM TRIES TO OVERTAKE AND WARN HIM OF A TRAP.
8-10

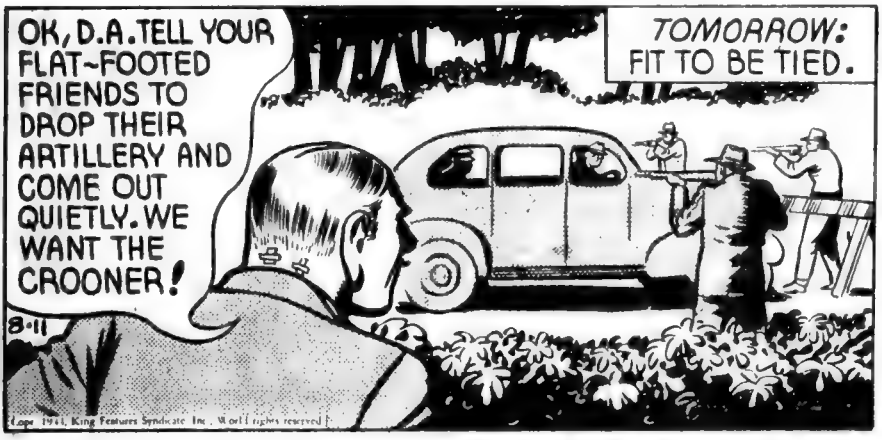

BUT THE D.A.'S CAR IS FASTER THAN THE BORROWED MOTORCYCLE.

STEP ON IT, GRAYSON.
I'M GIVING HER ALL~UH~OH! SOMETHING ACROSS THE ROAD!


DETOUR

PECULIAR~ THERE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A DETOUR OUT HERE.
PECULIAR IS RIGHT!


ONLY THE CROONER SEEMS HAPPY ABOUT THE DELAY.
LA~DE~DA~DE~DA! DUM~TE~DUM!


OK, D.A. TELL YOUR FLAT~FOOTED FRIENDS TO DROP THEIR ARTILLERY AND COME OUT QUIETLY. WE WANT THE CROONER!
TOMORROW: FIT TO BE TIED.
8-11
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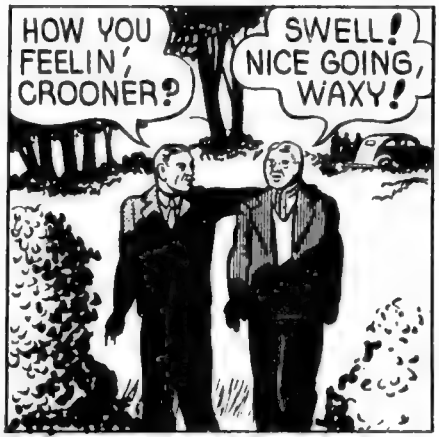
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS OUTRAGE!

COPPER, UNLOCK THE CROONER.
THANKS A MILLION ~
8-12


HOW YOU FEELIN', CROONER?
SWELL! NICE GOING, WAXY!

I'M THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
LOOKS LIKE THEY DID.
CONT'D.

WHERE'S THE LOOT, CROONER?
THAT'S EASY. UNDER THE STAIRCASE AT HIDEOUT NO.3.
THE CROONER IS RESCUED FROM THE POLICE AND MARCHED INTO THE WOODS.
Copr. 1944 King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved

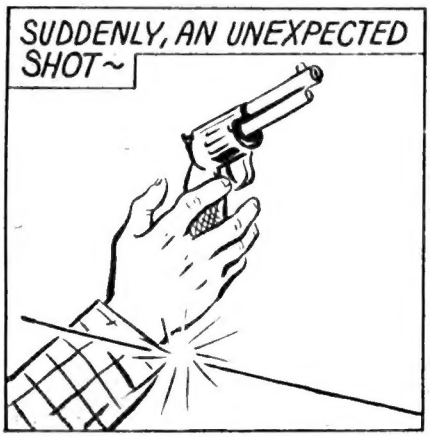
THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO KNOW. O.K., BUTCH! LET HIM HAVE IT.

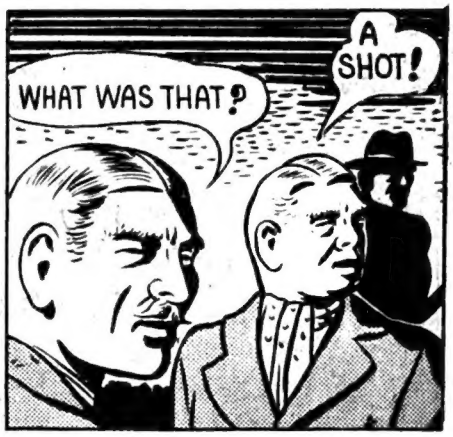
H~H~HEY! W~WHAT'S THIS! ~I'M YOUR LEADER!
8-14

WE JUST FOUND OUT WHY YOU'RE CALLED THE CROONER ~AND YOU'VE SUNG YOUR LAST TUNE!

OUT WEST THEY CALLED YOU THE CROONER, BECAUSE YOU "SANG" TO THE COPS.
YOU GOT ME WRONG, BOYS. I DIDN'T TELL THE COPS NOTHIN'!

WE AIN'T TAKIN' NO CHANCES ~LEAVE HIM HAVE IT, BUTCH.
8-15

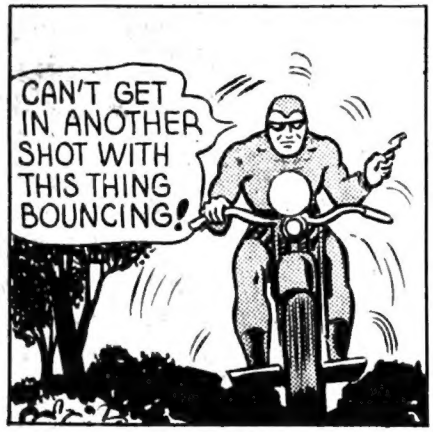

SUDDENLY, AN UNEXPECTED SHOT~


WHAT WAS THAT?
A SHOT!

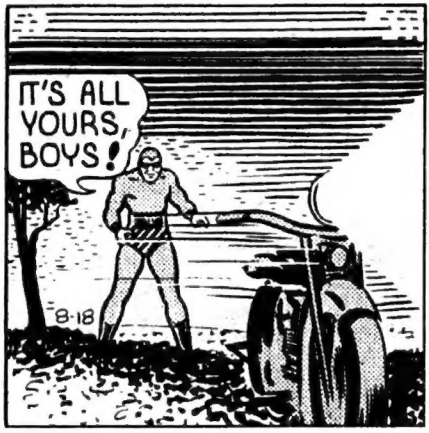
WHO DONE IT?
8-16

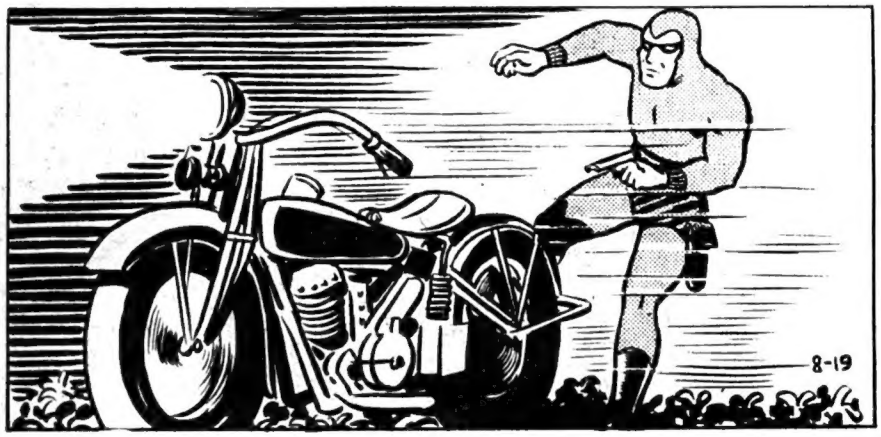
THE PHANTOM!

SHOOT HIM! MOW HIM DOWN!

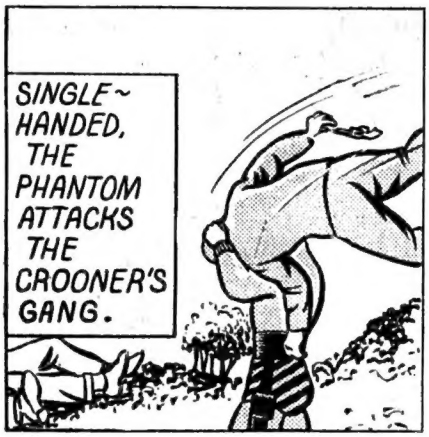

CAN'T GET IN ANOTHER SHOT WITH THIS THING BOUNCING!

LEAVE HIM HAVE IT!
8-17
(Copr. 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved)

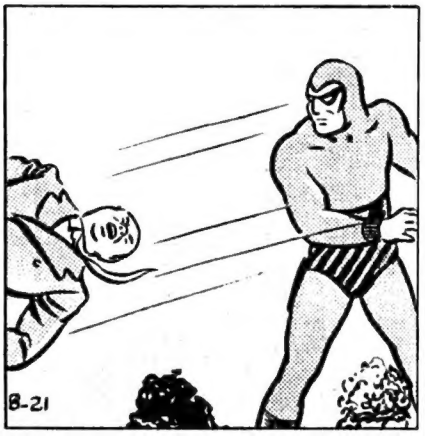

IT'S ALL YOURS, BOYS!
8-18

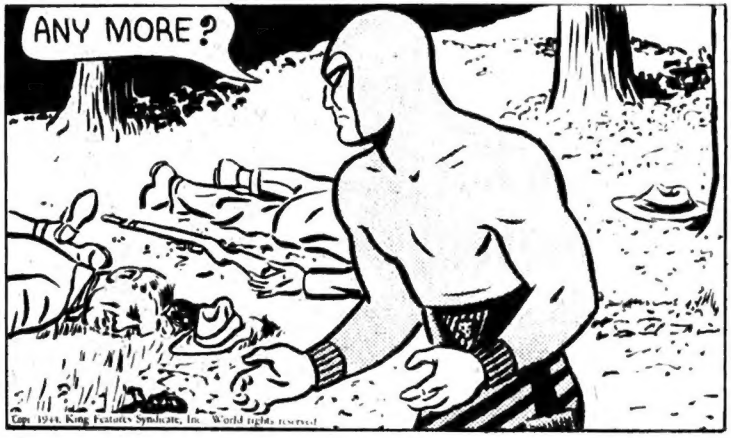

8-19

GANGWAY!


SINGLE~ HANDED, THE PHANTOM ATTACKS THE CROONER'S GANG.

THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, MYSTERY MAN!


8-21


ANY MORE?
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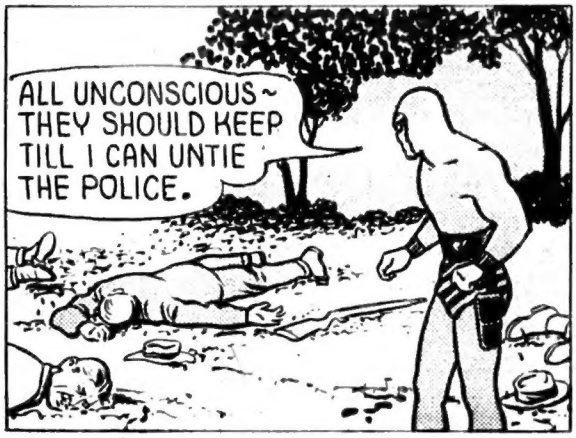
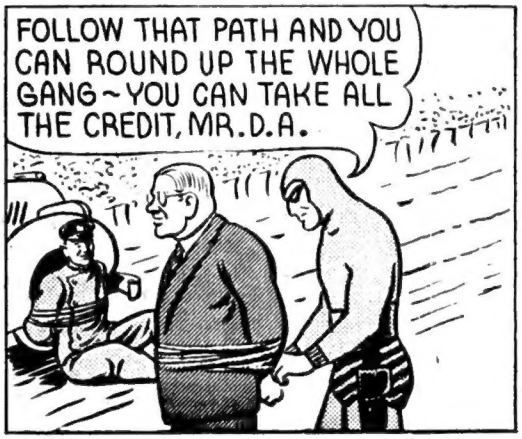
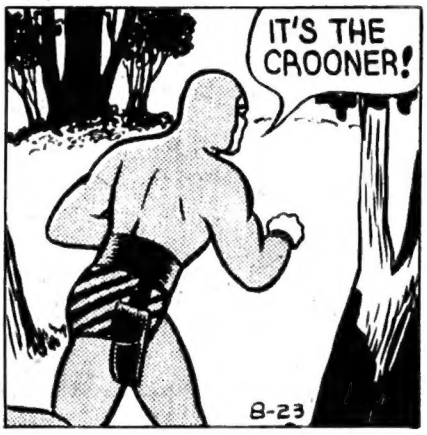

ALL UNCONSCIOUS~ THEY SHOULD KEEP TILL I CAN UNTIE THE POLICE.

ALL EXCEPT THE CROONER~

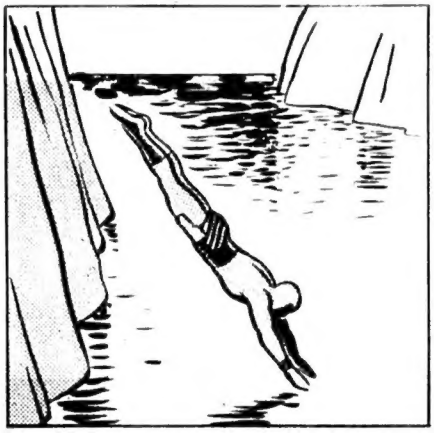

FOLLOW THAT PATH AND YOU CAN ROUND UP THE WHOLE GANG~YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE CREDIT, MR. D.A.

MAYBE I SHOULD FINISH OFF THE DIRTY DOUBLE~ CROSSERS~BUT I'D BETTER SCRAM WHILE I CAN!
8-22

SOMEBODY RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS!


IT'S THE CROONER!
8-23

THE PHANTOM~ HE'S AFTER ME!



RELAX, CROONER. YOU'LL SOON BE SAFE AND SOUND~ BEHIND BARS.
8-24

THEY'RE ALL HERE ~EXCEPT THE CROONER.

ALL HERE~ INCLUDING THE CROONER!
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~AND SO I NABBED THE WHOLE GANG. YOU MAY QUOTE ME AS SAYING I NEVER ONCE SUSPECTED THE REAL PHANTOM OF BEING A CRIMINAL.
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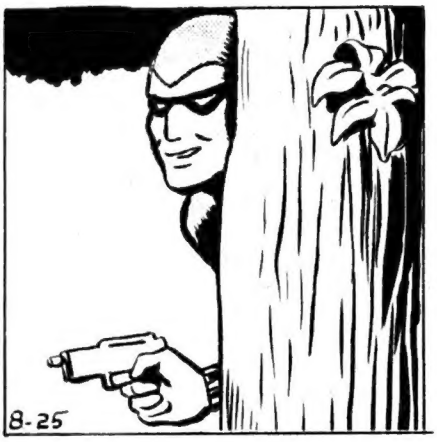
8-25

NOW, MOTHER~ DO YOU STILL THINK THE PHANTOM IS A CROOK?
NONSENSE, DIANA, WE NEVER DID. AT LEAST I DIDN'T!
HMM~
BEGINNING NEXT WEEK: THE MAHARAJAH'S DAUGHTER.
PHANTOM CLEARED
8-26